

for the people of that country, including in particular, the Sri Lankan Tamil minority community.

(c) The policy of the Government is consistent and well known. India has always stood for a peaceful political solution of this issue.

Security of Indians Abroad

3413. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the families of India Origin settled in foreign countries including Afghanistan have been targetted by soldiers/civilians in those countries during the last three years;

(b) if so, the country-wise details thereof;

(c) the number of people of Indian origin whose houses have been looted and then were asked to leave the country and the number of people of Indian origin out of them have come back to India so far during the period;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to save the life and property of these people in those countries including Afghanistan; and

(e) the number of people of Indian origin who have come back to India after the eruption of disturbance in these countries including Afghanistan and the extent of assistance and facilities provided to them so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (e) The incidents of looting and attacks can be placed in two broad categories - one, where the overall law and order situation breaks down and civil war conditions arise in which case the population of Indian origin suffers as much as other foreign nationals, as indeed the local population also. The other situation arises where the Indian community is specifically targetted for some reason. So far as Indian origin population being affected in the first category is concerned, Government takes all possible measures to help them in their evacuation and subsequently makes efforts to get compensation payments on their behalf. Afghanistan comes in the first category. Similar disturbances also took place in Liberia and Sierra Leone during 1995-96 but there were no specific incidents of looting or harassment. Most Indian origin people from Liberia numbering about 250 were evacuated safely with the help of our Missions in Sierra Leone (Honorary Consul), Abidjan, Dakar and Accra. As for the second category, the Government have been taking up the matter strongly with the concerned authorities to get justice for the population of Indian origin residing abroad. The incidents which took place in Zambia, Kenya

and Uganda come under this category. Country-wise details are as under :

AFGHANISTAN

We have seen press reports stating that people of Indian origin in Afghanistan have been subjected to harassment in the recent past but we have not received any corroborative report on the subject from other sources. According to our records, the number of Afghans of Indian origin who have come to India in the last three years is as follows :

1994	-	1937
1995	-	515
1996	-	853

ZAMBIA

The Indian origin community in southern Zambian city of Livingstone became the target of widespread looting and violence in October-November, 1995 which appeared to have been provoked by allegations of "ritual murders" and had racial overtones. Government of India expressed its concern to the Government of Zambia and asked for appropriate measures to be taken to protect the lives and property of the Indian community. The Indian High Commissioner in Lusaka also kept in touch with the representatives of Indian community regarding their welfare. There is no information of any Indians having been asked to leave the country on account of these incidents or having returned to India on their own.

KENYA

The Chairman of the opposition party, Mr. Kenneth Matiba is reported to have called for expulsion of Asians from Kenya in April-May, 1996. Government of Kenya in fact defended the Asian community against the opposition's allegations. No specific indications or precise statistics are available of the incidents which may have occurred as a result of this controversy nor about the members of Indian community who may have returned to India in the wake of the controversy.

UGANDA

The Ugandan Immigration authorities raided the premises of various members of the Indian origin community as part of an ostensible drive against those working without work permits and relevant documents. 70 members of the Indian community were detained, 53 of which were released the same day and 10 were bailed out after a week and the remaining a few days later. Our High Commissioner in Kampala took up the matter with the Government of Uganda and expressed concern at the undue harassment and maltreatment meted out to the Indians who had been detained. No information is available on any of the Indians who have since been asked to leave Uganda or any of them who may have returned to India in the wake of the incident.

Many of the persons of Indian origin residing in developing countries, hold US, UK, Canada, etc.

passports and approach the concerned Governments for evacuation and other assistance. However, the Government remains vigilant and prepared to extend all required assistance to the people of Indian origin.

[Translation]

Shipping Activities in West Bengal

3414. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the shipping activities on port situated in West Bengal likely to be closed due to decrease in the level of water in the Ganga River;

(b) if not, the number of ships loaded and unloaded at that port during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) the reasons for continuous decrease in water of Ganga and loading and unloading of ships thereof; and

(d) the scheme prepared by the Government for the development of this port?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of ships loaded and unloaded during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (April, 1996 to Feb., 1997) are given below :

	1995-96	1996-97 (April, 96 to Feb., 97)
Calcutta Dock	836	852
Haldia Dock	805	804

(c) The uneven distribution of flow during monsoon and non-monsoon periods of the year, constraints in storage development, and diversion of water for irrigation and other purposes during dry season without supported by storages cause decrease in flow.

(d) Calcutta Port Trust has prepared and number of capital river regulatory and dredging schemes which have been proposed for inclusion in 9th Plan.

Loading/Unloading on Ports

3415. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of major ports functioning in the country with locations thereof;

(b) whether loading and unloading on these port have been increased during the last three years;

(c) if so, the quantity of goods exported and imported through these ports during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(d) whether loading and unloading of goods in the said ports have decreased in the current year in comparison of last years; and

(e) if so, the names of such port and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : There are 11 Major Ports functioning in the country. The names of these Major Ports and their locations are given below :-

Calutta/Haldia	- West Bengal
Paradip	- Orissa
Visakhapatnam	- Andhra Pradesh
Madras	- Tamil Nadu
Tuticorin	- Tamil Nadu
Cochin	- Kerala
New Mangalore	- Karnataka
Mormugao	- Goa
Jawaharlal Nehru	- Maharashtra
Bombay	- Maharashtra
Kandla	- Gujarat.

(b) and (c) The loading and unloading on these 11 Major Ports has increased during the last three years. The quantity of cargo exported and imported through these Major Ports during the financial years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :-

Cargo traffic at Major Ports

(In million tonne)

Year	Import*	Export*	Total
1993-94	100.49	78.77	179.26
1994-95	113.92	83.34	197.26
1995-96	126.63	88.70	215.33

* Import and export figures include Coastal traffic also.

(d) No, Sir, The total traffic handled in 11 Major Ports in the first ten months of current financial year was 185.00 million tonnes as against the 175.81 million tonnes handled during the first ten months of the last financial year.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Infrastructural Facilities in Tripura University

3416. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has submitted any project for building up infrastructural facilities in Tripura University; and